

The background of the slide is a piece of marbled paper with a complex, organic pattern of swirling lines in shades of beige, cream, and light brown. The pattern resembles natural stone or biological cells.

Virginia Land Conservation Foundation Grant Program

Fall 2005

About VLCF

- 18-member Board represents every Congressional District
- Sec. of Natural Resources + 11 appointed by Governor, 4 by the House, 2 by the Senate – Director of DCR serves as Executive Secretary
- Created in 1992, first funded in 2000
- Grant rounds in FY00, FY01, FY05, FY06
- \$13.2 million awarded so far, with 15,671 acres protected

VLCF Funding Fall 2005

- Approximately \$10 million available
- Grant round opened July 1; closing date is Monday, September 20
- (applications must be postmarked by then)
- Interagency review
- Board will meet December 1 for grant approval
- Manual and other information may be found at www.dcr.virginia.gov/vlcf

VLCF Funding and Scoring Categories

\$10 million is divided equally among four primary categories:

- (i) natural area protection;
 - (ii) open spaces and parks;
 - (iii) farmlands and forest preservation; and
 - (iv) historic area preservation.
-
- At least one third of the funds must be used to secure easements to be held or co-held by a public body.
 - Up to 50 percent of a project's cost may be reimbursed with a VLCF grant.

Fall 2005 Grant Round

- Grant applications are scored by an interagency taskforce:
 - Dept. of Conservation and Recreation
 - Natural Heritage, Planning & Recreation Resources
 - Dept. of Historic Resources
 - Dept. of Agriculture & Consumer Services
 - Dept. of Forestry
 - Dept. of Game and Inland Fisheries
 - Virginia Outdoors Foundation

Scoring Criteria

Criteria are based on the four primary categories:

- open spaces and parks;
- historic area preservation;
- farmlands and forest preservation;
- natural area protection.

Additional Scoring Criteria

Additional criteria were implemented in 2005 per General Assembly request:

1. the status of the parcel under a locality's master plan as a Chesapeake Bay Preservation Area
2. the degree to which securing the parcel will protect local drinking water supplies
3. the degree to which the parcel satisfies recreational needs as identified in the Virginia Outdoors Plan and/or a local comprehensive plan

Additional Scoring Criteria

4. the extent to which the parcel has water quality benefits and/or the affected locality has identified the parcel in its comp. plan as having important local water quality benefits
5. the general value of the parcel in satisfying the primary categories compared to alternatives
6. wildlife benefit

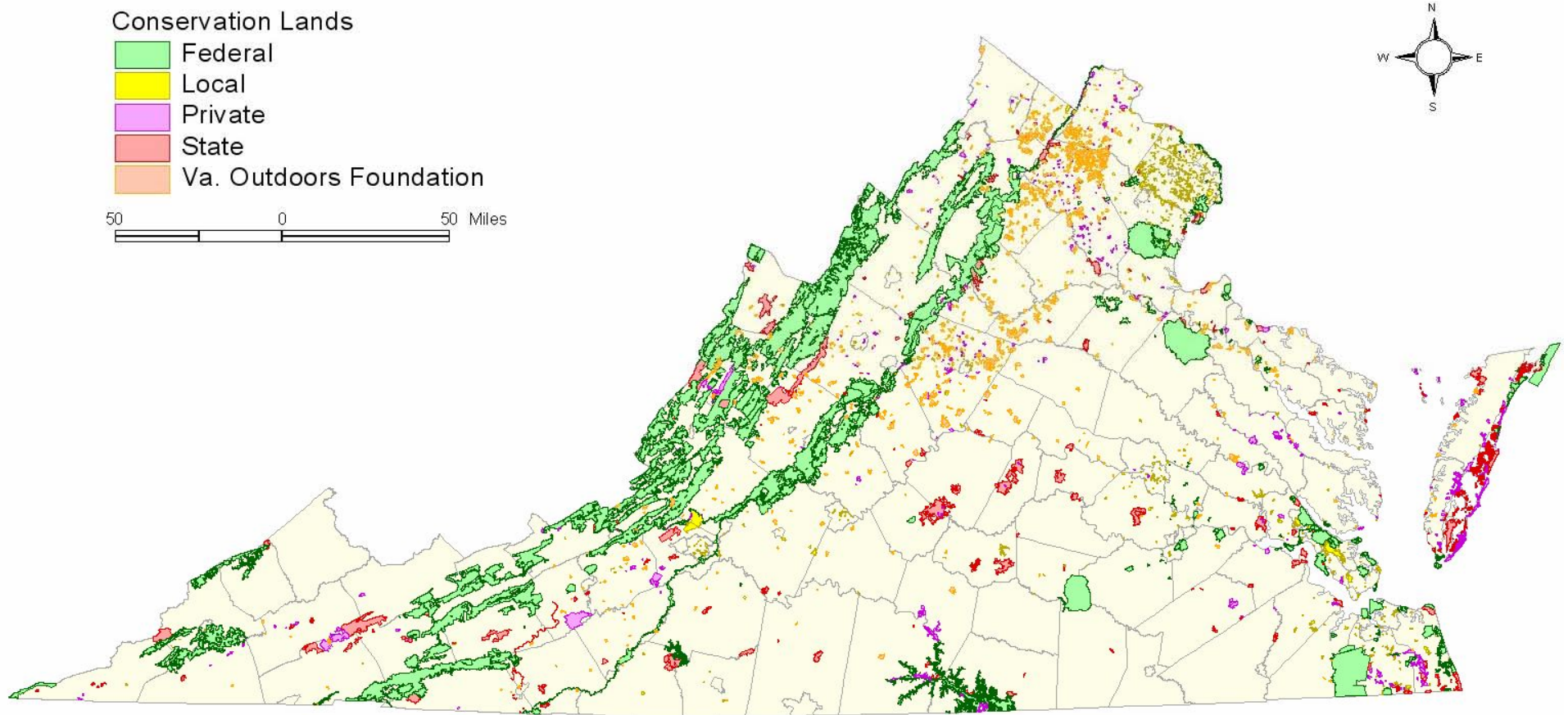
Grant Application Scoring Sheet and Criteria – Example

Primary Category	Statutory Category Scoring	Chesapeake Bay Preservation Area	Drinking Water Supply Protection	Recreational Benefit	Water Quality Benefit	Value Added	Wildlife Benefit	Total
	Max. 80 points	Max. 3 points	Max. 3 points	Max. 3 points	Max. 3 points	Max. 5 points	Max. 3 points	Max. 100 points
Open Spaces & Parks								
Historic Area Preservation								
Farmland and Forest Preservation								
Natural Area Protection	51	3	0	3	0	3	3	63

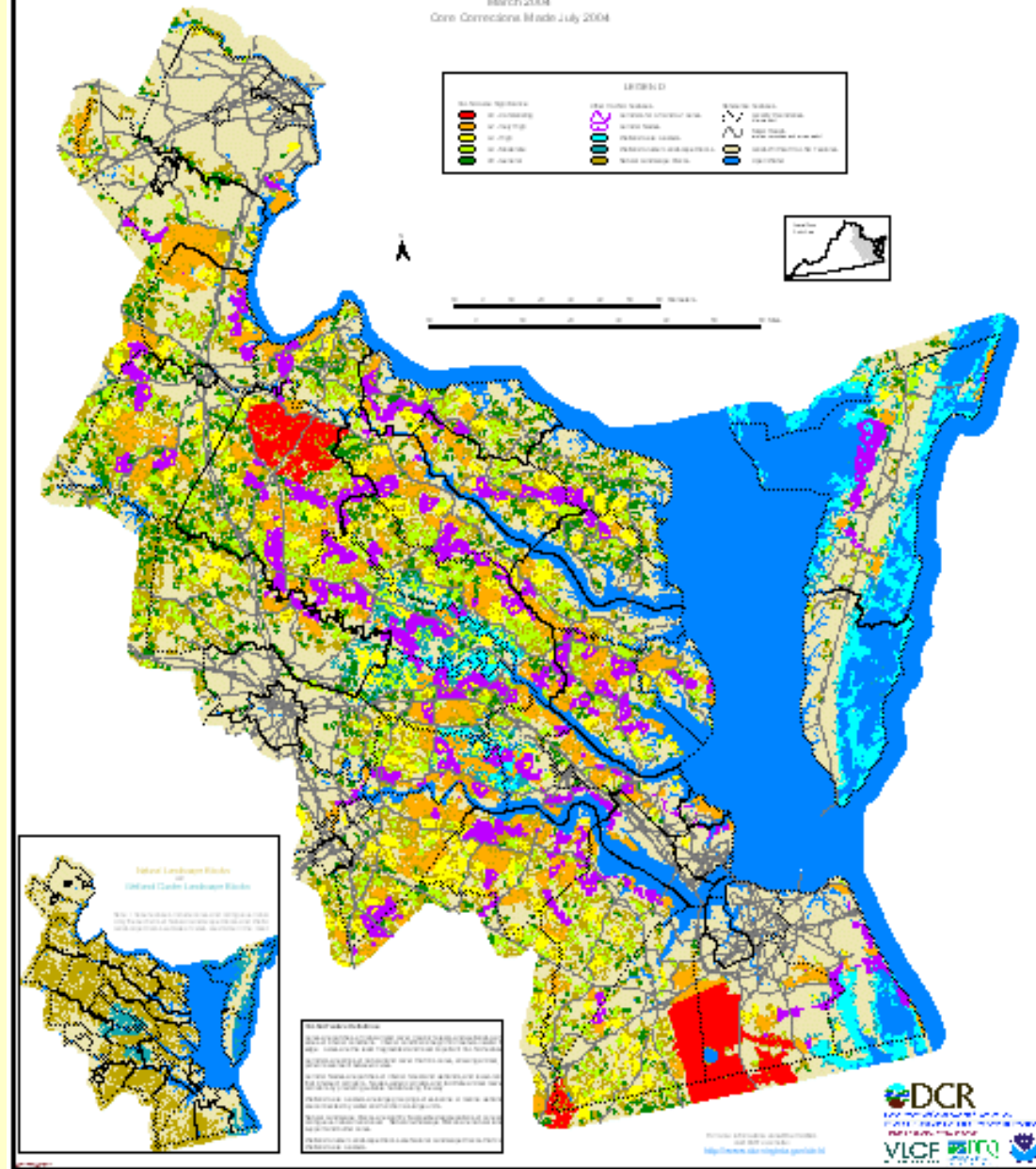
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VLCF Grant Application Tools

Conservation Lands in Virginia



March 2004
Core Corrections Made July 2004



[www.dcr.virginia.gov/
dnh/vclna.htm](http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/dnh/vclna.htm)

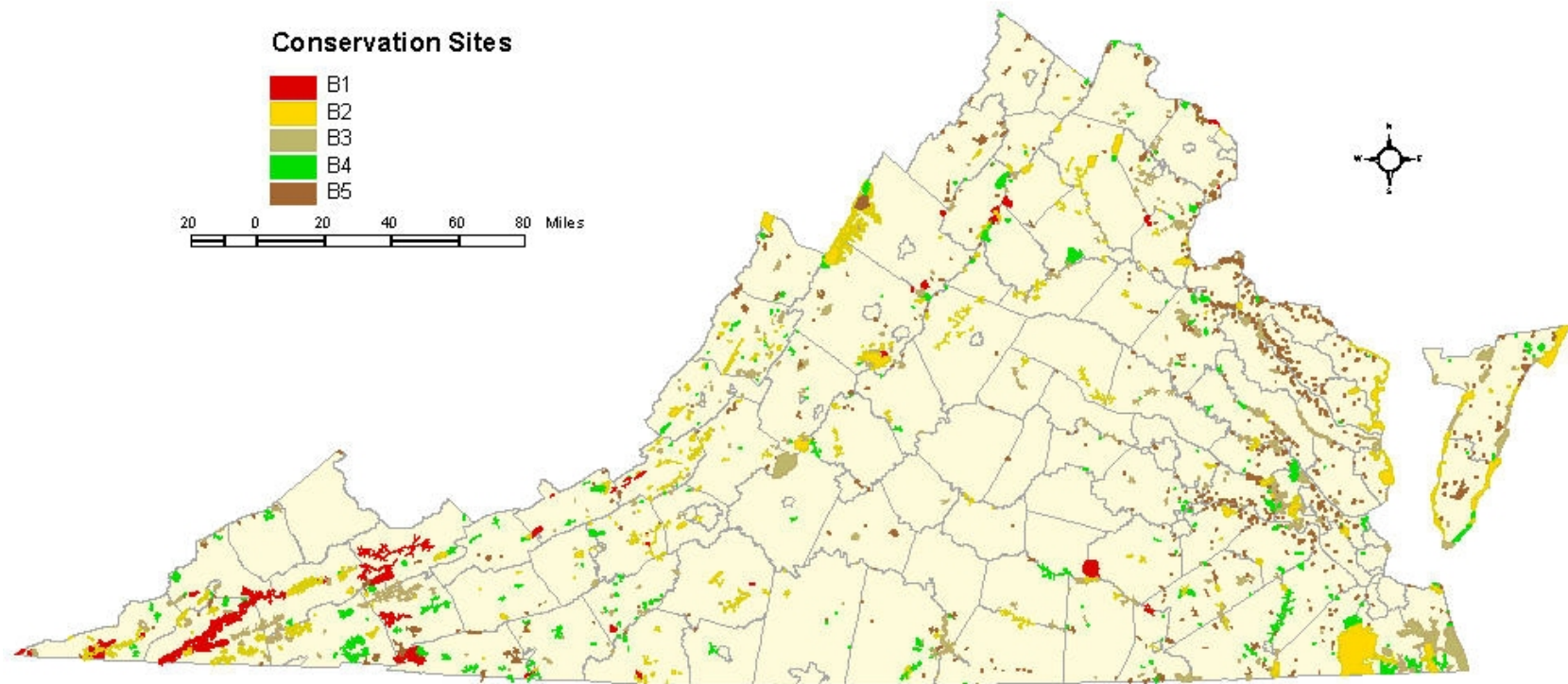
Natural Area Protection

Virginia Natural Heritage Program

- Mission: Identify, protect & conserve Virginia's biological diversity
- Focus on:
 - Rare plants and animals
 - Rare and exemplary natural communities
 - Significant caves and karst features
- 31 Years of methodological development,
19 years of data collection and analysis



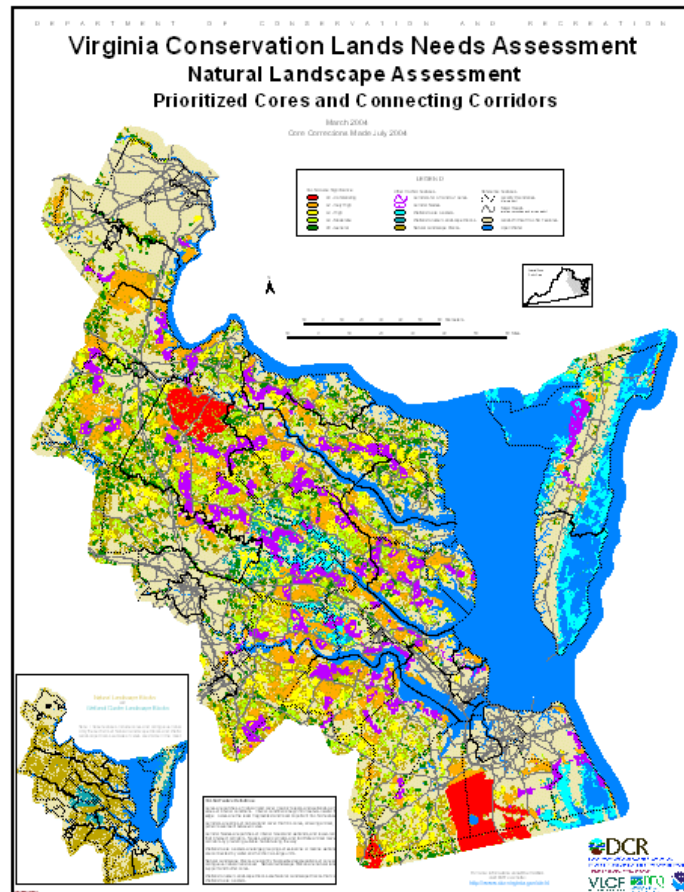
Natural Heritage Conservation Sites



www.dcr.virginia.gov/olc/tools02c.htm

Virginia Conservation Lands Needs Assessment Natural Landscape Assessment

- Land Conservation Foundation & DCR lead effort with numerous partners – Dept of Forestry, DEQ Coastal Program
- Prioritized 100+ acre forested areas and corridors
- All Data freely available from DCR



www.dcr.virginia.gov/dnh/vclna.htm

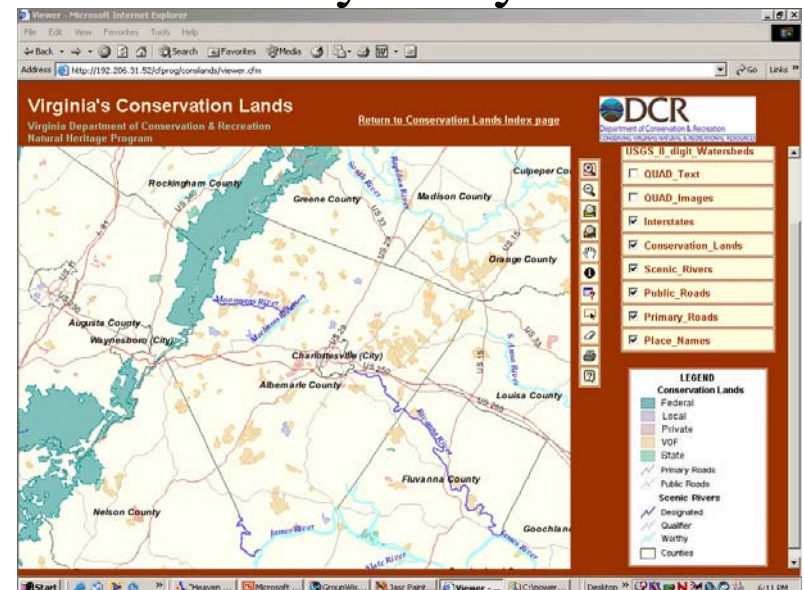
Now underway for the VCLNA

- **Extend the VCLNA Natural Landscape Assessment to the entire state**
- **With assistance from other agencies and organizations, identify and develop issue-specific data sets, to integrate with the Natural Landscape Assessment, e.g.**
 - **natural heritage resources**
 - **sustainable forestry**
 - **prime agricultural soils**
 - **cultural and historic resources**
 - **outdoor recreation**
 - **water quality improvement**
 - **drinking water protection**

Conservation Lands

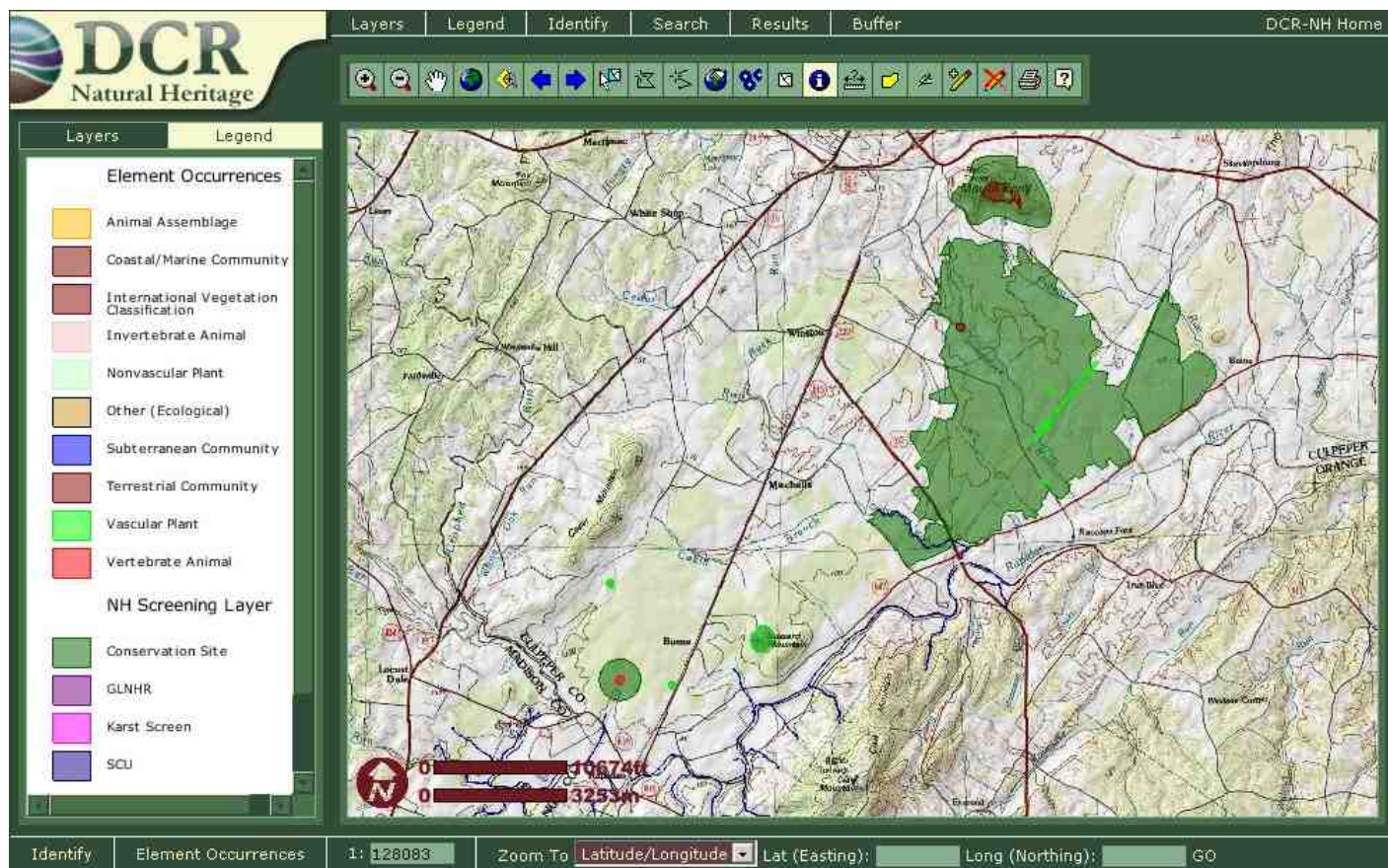
- What is already protected?
- All public and private lands in Virginia that have some form of permanent protection, and potential significance in serving a variety of conservation, recreation, and open-space roles.
- This database is the primary and official statewide source for these boundaries among GIS users.
- Freely available on-line, or can be downloaded to your system.
- 2000+ downloads in the last year.
- Depends on your cooperation in
 - sending DCR information.

www.dcr.virginia.gov/dnh/conslandindex.htm



Virginia Explorer – coming your way

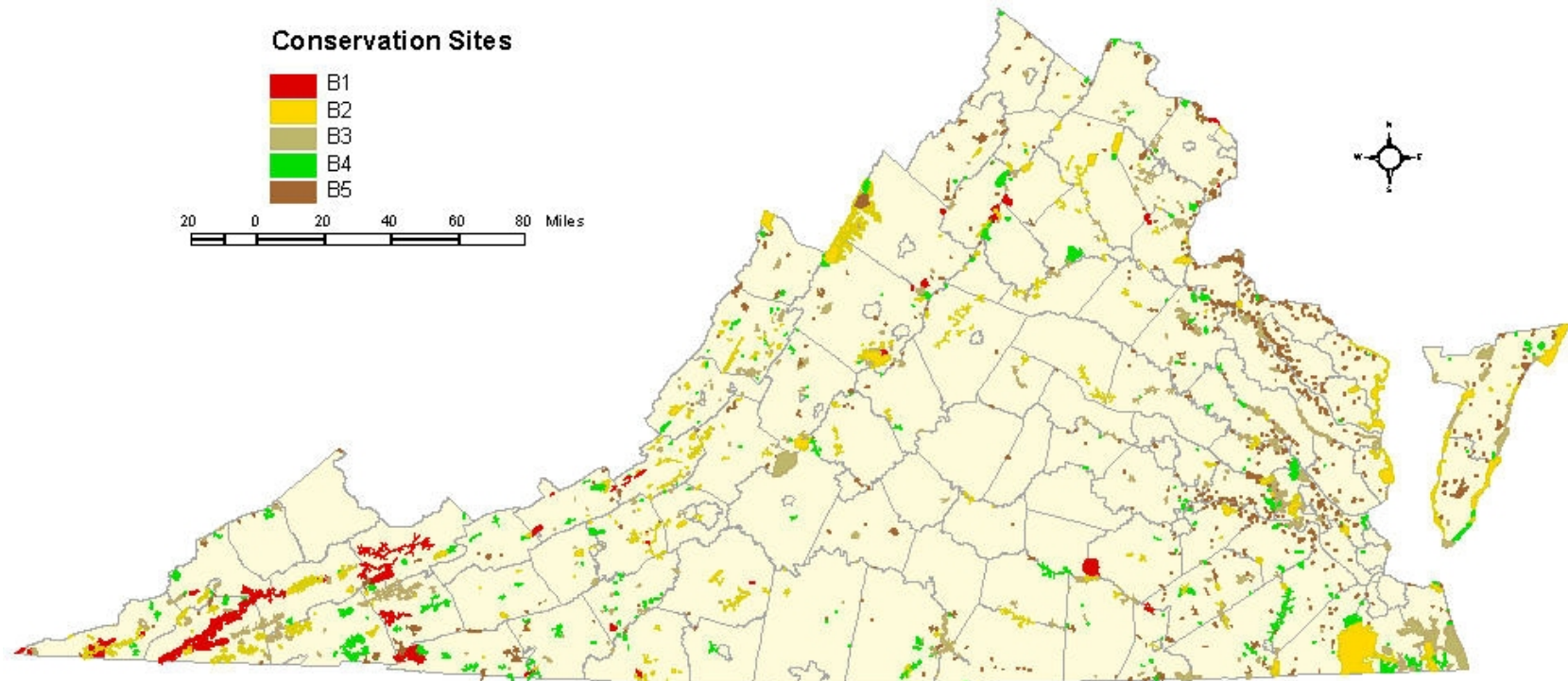
- License Subscription to Natural Heritage data via Internet



Scoring Sheet Criteria For: Natural Areas Category

- The Natural Heritage Biodiversity Rank of the Natural Heritage conservation site, based upon the global and state rarity of the natural heritage resources present, the number of natural heritage resources present, and their condition.
- Maximum score: 20.
- BI=20 B5=5
- B2=15 No natural heritage resources = 0
- B3 or B4 =10

Natural Heritage Conservation Sites



Scoring Sheet Criteria For: Natural Areas Category

- 2. Size & Natural Condition: Are the size and condition of the tract(s) adequate to protect and allow for management of natural heritage resource targets?
- Maximum score: 15
- ☐ • Size and condition are adequate to fully protect & manage targets = 15
- ☐ • Size and condition are likely to provide for full protection and management of targets = 10
- Size and condition are unlikely to allow protection & management of the conservation targets = 0-5

Scoring Sheet Criteria For: Natural Areas Category

- 3. Proximity: Is the tract(s) adjacent to or in close physical or functional proximity (e.g. upstream or upslope) to other conservation lands and would it expand the protection of natural heritage resources? Maximum score: 15
 - Adjacent to existing conservation land = 15
 - Possesses physical or functional proximity to existing conservation land = 10
 - No physical or functional proximity to existing conservation land = 0

Scoring Sheet Criteria For: Natural Areas Category

- 4. Management: Applicant's capability to implement necessary management to protect the site from short-term and long-term stresses.

Maximum score: 10

- Applicant has proven experience with natural community/rare species management = 10
- Applicant has land management experience = 5
- Applicant has no proven land management experience = 0

Scoring Sheet Criteria For: Natural Areas Category

- 5. Community Representation: To what extent does the site support exemplary natural communities that are not well protected in Virginia? Maximum score: 10
 - Supports communities not found on other protected lands = 10
 - Supports communities found on limited number (1–10) of protected lands = 5
 - Supports communities well represented (10+) on other protected lands = 0

Scoring Sheet Criteria For: Natural Areas Category

6) No. & Quality of EOs: How many element occurrences are known for the tract(s) and what is the quality of those occurrences? Assign the value below for each occurrence based on it's EO-rank. Sum these values.

Maximum score: 10

A-rank=4

D-rank=1

B-rank=3

E(extant)-rank=2

C-rank=2

Natural Area Preserve Dedication

- 10.1-1022.1 D. All property for which a matching grant is made pursuant to this section shall be dedicated as a natural area preserve as provided in § [10.1-213](#).
- Dedication instrument is designed to assure conservation of rare plant and animal species and natural communities of the site, and thus can be fairly restrictive.
- Signed by landowner and DCR Director.



Primary Contact:
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Questions?

Historic Area Protection Scoring Criteria

(1) Historic Significance

Will the project protect or preserve a resource that:

(A) Is on – or eligible for listing on – the Virginia Landmarks Register (VLR)?

Eligibility is determined with DHR's Preliminary Information Form (PIF) available from regional offices or on website at

http://www.dhr.virginia.gov/registers/register_faq.htm

OR that:

(B) Contributes to the integrity, enhances the setting, or provides a buffer for a property listed on the VLR?

Rarity, quality, and integrity of the resource will be considered:

- National Historic Landmark? Individually listed on VLR? Contributes to National Register historic district? (18-35 points)
- Contributing building within VLR historic district? Other historic or cultural resources? (0-17 points)

(2) Threat

Is there an **identifiable threat** to the resource or compelling need for immediate preservation?

Organizational and Financial Capacity

(3) Are there realistic plans, and financial capacity to ensure:

- appropriate treatment or ongoing maintenance and
- development for maximum public benefit as appropriate?

NOTE: Project plans must meet relevant preservation standards and must be approved by DHR.

(4) Will the project complement or enhance other cultural or historic resources or preservation activities, OR Does the project represent a unique cultural resource opportunity in the geographic area?

Broad Benefits and Public Support

- (5) Will protection or preservation of the resource also further education, research, tourism, or community development?
- (6) Is protection or preservation part of a broader resource management plan? Examples: Comprehensive plan? master plan? outdoor recreation plan?
- (7) Document public support for the project (include copies of letters of support)

Farmlands and Forest Preservation Category

- Single funding category, separate funding criteria have been developed for agricultural lands and for forestal lands.
- Applicant should use the set of criteria that is most appropriate for projects being submitted.
- Applications for purchasing fee simple title to or other rights, interest in, or privileges in property for the protection and preservation of agricultural lands will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

Farmlands Criteria

With respect to this criteria, important agricultural lands shall consist of land that has historically produced or is producing agricultural or forestal products and is soil classified as class 1, 2, 3 or 4; or shall consist of:

1. Prime farmland, which is land that has the best combination of physical characteristics for the production of food, feed, fiber, forage, oilseed, and other agricultural crops with minimum input of fuel, fertilizer, pesticides, and labor, and without intolerable soil erosion. Prime farmland includes but is not limited to land that possesses the above characteristics but is currently being used to produce timber or livestock including: cattle, sheep, hogs, goats, horses or poultry. It does not include land already in, or committed to, urban development or water storage.

Farmlands Criteria

(continued)

2. Unique farmland, which is land other than prime farmland that is used for production of specific high-value food and fiber crops. It has the special combination of soil quality, location, growing season, and moisture supply needed to economically produce sustained high quality or high yields of specific crops when treated and managed according to acceptable farming methods. Examples of such crops include tree nuts and fruits, including grapes and apples, and vegetables.

Farmlands Criteria

(continued)

3. Farmland, other than prime or unique farmland, which is of statewide or local importance for the production of food, feed, fiber, forage, or oilseed crops. In addition, the following criteria will be considered:
 - The agricultural significance of the land within the area in which it is located.
 - The presence of any significant adjacent agricultural land that is not now in active agriculture.

Farmlands Criteria

(continued)

- The nature and extent of land uses other than active farming in areas adjacent to the proposed property.
- Local developmental patterns and needs which could affect the property.
- The comprehensive plan and, if applicable, the zoning regulations which affect the property.
- The environmental benefits of retaining the land in agricultural uses.

Scoring Sheet Criteria For: _____
Agricultural Lands Category

Criterion Score Notes

Category I: Soil Productivity & Land Quality
(20 points)

Soil Productivity

Using soil classes prime, unique or locally important farmland, score the percentage of project land in each soils class (§3.1-18.5 of the Code of Virginia). (Note: The total score cannot exceed 20 points)

Value the soils classified as Prime.

Value the soils classified Unique.

Value the soils classified as Locally Important Farmland.

Maximum Score 0-20

Land Quality (20 points)

**In order of importance, value the land quality described below.
The maximum score cannot exceed 20 points.**

The farmland is very unique in that it has a history of producing high yields of high-value specialty crops, such as grapes, fruits, nuts or vegetables grown and meets the definition described in the Grant Manual, in the Agricultural Land Category.

The farmland is prime land (other than unique or important) as defined in the Grant Manual in the Agricultural Land Category.

The farmland (other than prime or unique) is of statewide or local importance, as defined in the Grant Manual in the Agricultural Land Category.

Maximum Score 0-20

Category II: Land Use (40 points)

A. Is the land:

- 1) currently being farmed;
- 2) being farmed by owner;
- 3) significant as a result of what is being produced; and,
- 4) significant from the family's tenure of the farm? **Score 0–10**

B. To what degree is the land adjacent to or in close proximity to other preserved lands, either in agriculture production or non-active in farming? **Score 0–6**

C. To what degree will local developmental patterns threaten or affect the project? **Score 0–12**

Category II (continued)

D. Are there local developmental patterns that could negatively affect the proposed land? **Score 0-4**

E. Does the project support the local comprehensive plan and, zoning regulations? **Score 0-4**

F. To what degree will preserving the proposed land in agricultural use secure environmental benefits? **Score 0-4**

Maximum score 40 points

Forest Lands Conservation Category

- **Intent is to coordinate conservation with the other land use categories in a meaningful way**
- **Forest lands criteria all related**
 - **Meaning “protect land which protects water which preserves unique habitats which protect species...”**
- **National emphasis is on conserving forest land for water quality protection**
 - **US Forest Service/NY City Watershed**
 - **County of Amherst, City of Newport News**

Forest Lands Category Scoring

- **...land is in an area of potential development and/or other land use changes whereby the retention of forest land is important (15).**
 - **if applicant does not provide any other information supporting this criteria we will use Virginia Forest Land Assessment Report**
 - **Also can interpret recent USFS publication “Forests on the Edge”**

Forest Lands Category Scoring

- ...forestland protects a significant watershed, waterways on state 303 (d) list, or protects water reservoirs for public use (15).
 - very strong direct correlation between % forest in a watershed and water quality
 - TMDL's and Tributary Strategy Information important sources
 - can be obtained through DEQ/DCR
 - Also wellhead protection

Forest Lands Category Scoring

- ...the property owner offered a purchase/easement at a price below market value thereby helping with the matching grant (10).
 - leveraging scarce resources is critical...
 - landowner may have a history of conservation whereby they provided extra match previously

Forest Lands Category Scoring

- ...property is (a) a State Forest in holding and, (b) contiguous to an existing protected forest area and, (c) in a manageable distance of existing State Forest (10).
- ...property is located adjacent to already conserved lands such as Forest Legacy Project (10).
 - Both related to building “the base of hubs and corridors”
 - Related strongly to the DCR Heritage information
 - Can expand on Legacy Project acreage

Forest Lands Scoring Criteria

- ...property is suitable (landowner willing...?) for long-term research, special landowner demonstration opportunities, or conservation education (10)
 - Always an important component for us but not a traditional conservation criteria
 - Project Learning Tree, Project Wet seek places to go near schools, etc.
 - particularly in conjunction w/ Bay Foundation and a "...watershed experience prior to H.S. graduation..."

Forest Lands Scoring Criteria

- ...property located within an area identified in local comprehensive plan as important for open space, Ag/Forestal district, biological preservation (5).
 - continue to build local awareness on the total value of forests at the community level
- ...property has the potential to protect and/or restore: 1) Threatened and endangered species T&E of fauna or flora, 2) unique habitat for T&E species, 3) restore diminishing tree species, or 4) protects a significant historic or archeological site (5).
 - Longleaf Pine, Atlantic White Cedar
 - Mill sites

Parks and Open Space Category

Applications for public recreational and/or open space purposes will be evaluated according to the degree the project:

- Protects and/or acquires blueways, greenways, viewsheds, abandoned rail corridors, and open space areas.

- Acquires land or easements on land, which provide increased protection and/or public access to state water.

Addresses a need identified in the *Virginia Outdoors Plan* (VOP). The VOP may be accessed at www.dcr.virginia.gov/prr/vopfiles.htm.

Supports local and/or regional comprehensive plans for parks, open space, and outdoor recreational facilities and programs.

Supports the conservation and planning for Virginia's Scenic Rivers, Scenic Roads, and Virginia Byways.

Demonstrates partnerships with public agencies, corporations or non-profit organizations that will enhance, through easement and acquisition, the development of aesthetic parks, open space, and greenways in rapidly developing population areas, underserved areas or in densely populated areas of the state.

Acquires sensitive lands or easements contiguous to existing easements or park systems that expand and protect public conservation or recreational interests.

Acquires reversionary property, (i.e., property that reverts to buyer at death of owner), from a willing seller, that will have a significant impact on future public outdoor recreational opportunities.

Provides needed infrastructure on property purchased with Foundation funds.

For specific scoring criteria for this category please see Appendix 1.

Appendix 1

Scoring Sheet Criteria

Open Space and Parks Category

Criterion	Score	Notes
Determine the degree to which the Project: 1) Protects and/or acquires greenways, blueways, viewsheds, abandoned rail corridors, and open space areas. Maximum score 10		
2) Acquires land or easements on land which provide increased protection and/or public access to state water. Maximum score 15		
3) Addresses a need identified in the <i>Virginia Outdoors Plan</i> . Applicant must specify VOP Page # Maximum score 10		Specific Need = 10 points General Need = 5 points
4) Supports local and/or regional comprehensive plans for parks, open space, and recreational facilities and programs. Name and Page # of plan cited. Maximum score 8		

5) Availability of land for public use. Maximum score 10		Public Use = 10 points Easement with Limited Use = 5 points No Public Use = 0 points
6) Supports the conservation and planning for Virginia's Scenic Rivers, Scenic Roads, and Virginia Byways. Maximum score 5		Supports designated resources = 5 points Supports potential = 3 points
7) Demonstrates partnerships with public agencies, corporations, and non-profit organizations that will enhance, through easement and acquisition, the development of aesthetic parks, open space, and greenways in rapidly developing population areas. Maximum score 9		
8) Acquires sensitive lands or easements contiguous to existing park systems that expand and protect public conservation or recreational interests. Maximum score 9		
10) Provides needed infrastructure on property purchased with Foundation funds. Maximum score 4		

Total Maximum Score 80 points _____

2005 Virginia Land Conservation Fund Grant Program
Office of the Secretary of Natural Resources
PROJECT APPLICATION

Note: The VLCF is a reimbursement program. Reimbursement will be processed up to a maximum of 50% based on eligible expended documentation. (State agencies may receive 100% funding with no matching requirement)

1. Applicant: _____

2. Address:

3. Contact person: _____ **Phone Number:** _____

4. Government agency: ☐state ☐local ☐regional
 ☐public body ☐registered non-profit ☐conservation organization

Location of office in Virginia

of years office maintained in Virginia _____

If you are a national conservation organization, are you registered and in good standing with the State Corporation Commission? Yes No

5. Select the Primary Category for which you feel your project would best qualify for funding (see pages 6 – 11)

**__Open Space and Parks __Natural Area Protection __Historic Area Preservation
__Farmland and Forest Preservation**

List additional categories (if any) the project supports.

**6. a) Type of Project: __fee simple acquisition __ easement __PDR
 __ site development**

b) Amount of Grant requested _____

c) Number of acres to be protected or acquired _____

d) Anticipated project completion date _____

7. Name of Project _____

8. Land/property Use: ☐ public use allowed ☐ no public use allowed
 ☐ combination

9. a. Location(s) of project:

b. Virginia House District # _____ **Virginia Senate District #** _____

Virginia Congressional District # _____

10. Give brief description of project.

a) Describe, in this space, the scope of work and anticipated accomplishments.

b) Geographic Location with Maps (must include USGS 7.5 Minute topographic map suitable for 8 1/2 x 11 reproduction)

11. Landowner(s) has/have been notified and is/are receptive to negotiation on proposed Project ☐ Yes ☐ No

Letter from landowner(s) attached ☐ Yes ☐ No

12. Is the project within an area covered by the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act?

☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, is it within the

Resource Management Area

☐ Yes

☐ No

Resource Preservation Area

☐ Yes

☐ No

13. Is the project within 2 miles upstream of a Public Service Drinking Water Supply Structure?

☐ Yes ☐ No

14. Does the proposal meet a specific recreational need identified in the *Virginia Outdoors Plan*

☐ Yes ☐ No [If yes, provide the *VOP* page number reference]

in a local comprehensive plan? ☐ Yes ☐ No

[If yes, please include the relevant excerpt from the local comprehensive plan.]

15. Does the identified parcel have important local water quality benefits

☐ Yes ☐ No

[If yes, please give specific details on what the water quality benefits would be.]

and are the local water quality benefits identified in a local comprehensive plan?

☐ Yes ☐ No [If yes, please include the relevant excerpt from the plan.]

Applicant Matching Cost Breakdown: (Please identify each match source and amount applied to this project for each of the following categories)

Cash: _____

Land/Real Property Donations: _____

*Other: _____

Total Matching Contributions: _____

(Must be a minimum of 50% of the total cost except for state agency cost approved at a different rate.)

** Attach separate sheet with a detailed cost breakdown*

=====

Note: If any portion of the applicant's matching cost is from other grants that may or may not have **restrictions** on such funds, please identify the source of this match and give as much information as possible below:

Description of Applicant's Other Grant Matching Cost:

•APPLICATION WEAKNESSES

- Match not clearly identified or non-existing**
- No clear indication that project can be completed within two years from grant award**
- No clear demonstration that property to be protected is of real significance at the regional and/or state or federal level**
- Inadequate location map and topo maps**

- **Does not clearly show how project supports Virginia Outdoors Plan or a local or regional plan**
- **No indication that property owner is willing to have proposed easement on his property**
- **No clear demonstration as to the actual degree of threat to the property**
- **Not clearly addressing all items in the application**

- **Failure to address all scoring criteria for your category**
- **Not providing correct number of copies (10)**
- **Not keeping application on 8.5 X 11 inch sheets**
- **Providing an entire plan or study rather than just the excerpt from the plan that supports application**